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| 10/079,555 | 02/19/2002 | Masashi Watanabe | 02097/LH | 9145 |
| 1933 7590 11/14/2007 FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN & CHICK, PC 220 Fifth Avenue 16TH Floor NEW YORK, NY 10001-7708 | | | EXAMINER SINGH, SATWANT K | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 06 September 2007.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 8, and 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 3, 8, 11, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otsuka et al. (US 6,700,674) in view of Watanabe et al. (US 6,850,757).
5. Regarding Claim 1, Otsuka et al teaches a facsimile apparatus comprising: a communication section which performs image data communication (Fig. 5, LAN controller 37) by transmitting a mail indicating image data via a mail transmission system (sending a facsimile transmission as email) (col. 12, lines 22-39); a section which writes an important mail flag in the mail in accordance with an instruction made

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by a user when the user requests transmission of the image data (Fig. 6, mail flag 13g) (col. 11, lines 57-58); a printer (Fig. 5, printer 26) (col. 11, lines 15-30); a determining section (Fig. 6, communication result memory) which, if a delivery confirmation mail, which notifies whether delivery of the mail has succeeded or failed, has arrived, determines whether failure or a delivery success of the mail transmitted from the communication section (system returns an e-mail indicating non-delivery) (col. 18, lines 23-32), wherein the delivery confirmation mail includes the important mail flag if the important mail flag is written in the mail transmitted by the communication section (mail flag 13g is turned ON) (col. 17, lines 8-32); a control section which causes the printer to print an image based on the delivery confirmation mail if at least one of: (i) the important mail flag is included in the delivery confirmation mail and (ii) the determining section has determined that the delivery confirmation mail notifies the delivery failure (system returns an e-mail indicating non-delivery) (col. 17, lines 23-32), and which causes the printer not to print an image based on the delivery confirmation mail if both: (i) the important mail flag is not included in the delivery confirmation mail (Fig. 12, S410) (mail flag 13g is OFF) and (ii) determining section has determined that the delivery confirmation notifies the delivery success (no confirmation is made concerning the presence or absence of mail indicating delivery) (col. 18, lines 23-32).

Otsuka et al fails to teach a facsimile apparatus wherein the section which writes the important mail flag in the mail is user operable.

Watanabe et al teaches a facsimile apparatus wherein the section which writes the important mail flag in the mail is user operable (user is required to set the mail notification apparatus) (col. 3, lines 43-54).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Otsuka with the teaching of Watanabe to let the user preset the flags so the mail notification apparatus know when the mail notification should be sent.

6. Regarding Claim 3, Otsuka et al teaches a facsimile apparatus, wherein the mail transmitted by the communication section comprises an e-mail, to which the image data attached as an attachment file, based on an e-mail protocol (format conversion of the image data into an e-mail format) (col. 12, lines 22-39).

7. Regarding Claim 8, Otsuka et al teaches a method of controlling a facsimile apparatus, wherein the facsimile includes; a printer (Fig. 5, printer 26) (col. 11, lines 15-30), a communication section (Fig. 5, LAN controller 37) which performs image data communication, by transmitting a mail indicating image data via a mail transmission system (sending a facsimile transmission as email) (col. 12, lines 22-39), and a section which writes an important mail flag in the mail in accordance with an instruction made by a user when the user requests transmission of the image data (Fig. 6, mail flag 13g) (col. 11, lines 57-58), the method comprising: determining, if a delivery confirmation mail, which notifies whether delivery of the mail has succeeded or failed, has arrived, whether the delivery confirmation mail notifies a delivery failure or a delivery success of the mail transmitted from the communication section (system returns an e-mail

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indicating non-delivery) (col. 18, lines 23-32), wherein the delivery confirmation mail includes the important mail flag if the important mail flag is written in the mail transmitted by the communication section (mail flag 13g is turned ON) (col. 17, lines 8-32); and causing the printer to print an image based on the delivery confirmation mail if at least one of: (i) the important mail flag is included in the delivery confirmation mail and (ii) it has been determined that the delivery confirmation mail notifies the delivery failure (system returns an e-mail indicating non-delivery) (col. 18, lines 23-32), and causing the printer not to print an image based on the delivery confirmation mail if both: (i) the important mail flag is not included in the delivery confirmation mail (Fig. 12, S410) (mail flag 13g is OFF) and (ii) it has been determined that the delivery confirmation notifies the delivery success (no confirmation is made concerning the presence or absence of mail indicating delivery) (col. 18, lines 23-32).

Otsuka et al fails to teach a method wherein the section which writes the important mail flag in the mail is user operable.

Watanabe et al teaches a method wherein the section which writes the important mail flag in the mail is user operable (user is required to set the mail notification apparatus) (col. 3, lines 43-54).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Otsuka with the teaching of Watanabe to let the user preset the flags so the mail notification apparatus know when the mail notification should be sent.

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8. Regarding Claim 11, Otsuka et al teaches a method, wherein the mail transmitted by the communication section comprises an e-mail, to which the image data attached as an attachment file, based on an e-mail protocol (format conversion of the image data into an e-mail format) (col. 12, lines 22-39).

9. Regarding Claim 12, Otsuka et al teaches a facsimile apparatus comprising: communication means (Fig. 5, LAN controller 37) for performing image data communication by transmitting a mail indicating image data via a mail transmission system (sending a facsimile transmission as email) (col. 12, lines 22-39); means for writing an important mail flag in the mail in accordance with an instruction made by a user when the user requests transmission of the image data (Fig. 6, mail flag 13g) (col. 11, lines 57-58); means for printing an image (Fig. 5, printer 26) (col. 11, lines 15-30); means for determining, if a delivery confirmation mail, which notifies whether delivery of the mail has succeeded or failed, has arrived, whether the delivery confirmation mail notifies of a delivery failure or a delivery success of the mail transmitted by the communication means (system returns an e-mail indicating non-delivery) (col. 18, lines 23-32), wherein the delivery confirmation mail includes the important mail flag if the important mail flag is written in the mail transmitted by the communication means (mail flag 13g is turned ON) (col. 17, lines 8-32); means for controlling the printing means to print an image based on the delivery confirmation mail if at least one of: (i) the important mail flag is included in the delivery confirmation mail and (ii) the determining means has determined that the delivery confirmation mail notifies the delivery failure (system returns an e-mail indicating non-delivery) (col. 18, lines 23-32), and for controlling the

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printing means not to print an image based on the delivery confirmation mail if both: (i) the important mail flag is not included in the delivery confirmation mail (Fig. 12, S410) (mail flag 13g is OFF) and (ii) the determining means has determined that the delivery confirmation notifies the delivery success (no confirmation is made concerning the presence or absence of mail indicating delivery) (col. 18, lines 23-32).

Otsuka et al fails to teach a facsimile apparatus wherein the section which writes the important mail flag in the mail is user operable.

Watanabe et al teaches a facsimile apparatus wherein the section which writes the important mail flag in the mail is user operable (user is required to set the mail notification apparatus) (col. 3, lines 43-54).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Otsuka with the teaching of Watanabe to let the user preset the flags so the mail notification apparatus know when the mail notification should be sent.

10. Regarding Claim 14, Otsuka et al teaches a facsimile apparatus, wherein the mail transmitted by the communication means comprises an e-mail, to which the image data attached as an attachment file, based on an e-mail protocol (format conversion of the image data into an e-mail format) (col. 12, lines 22-39).

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satwant K. Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-7468. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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sks

Satwant K. Singh
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